

NEWSLETTER

2 SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**‘Repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand’**

Our deepest yearning is for peace among all people. We desire an end to war and strife, misunderstanding. Then what we see on TV doesn't help as it focuses on violence, and young people stab with knives and the brokenness of the human nature doesn't uplift us, instead it poisons the mind with negativity. The sin of Adam has affected the lives of all of us in various ways. The brokenness in our own lives and in the lives of others. This brokenness in our own lives affects ourselves as don't choose what is right or good, and it affects those with whom we come into contact since none of us has that intended image of God, and it affects our relationship with God by distracting us from putting God first. We have a deep yearning for peace, healing and harmony. We are familiar with the spirit of Advent because we have an Advent longing for God in our lives to restore everything to the way it was meant to be.

In our reading from Isaiah we see this return to harmony among the animals:

The wolf lives with the lamb

the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together

with a little boy to lead them

The cow and the bear make friends,

their young lies down together....., They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain.

Last week heard from Isaiah in that beautiful prophecy, when we heard, these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. Today we are told, for the country is filled with knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

Jesus is the one who will make this peace and harmony possible and heal all brokenness when the whole world will turn to him.

Jesus is this sign that has been set up for the entire world. He lives in the Church now and we are Gentiles, our first reading is fulfilled in our lives since we have found Jesus, That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious, the Church.

The peace promised in Jesus and for which we long for must begin in our own hearts, and we have to work for it, we cannot leave it to God. Peace occurs when we make decisions that lead to peace. Even though we have found Jesus in his glorious dwelling, the Church, because of the sin of Adam and the brokenness we all share, we have a spiritual progress to make in our lives. Thus the words of John the Baptist in our Gospel are words we want to make our own; "But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, We have Abraham for our father, because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones".

Producing good fruit through repentance, we will be bringing peace to ourselves, to others, and healing our relationship with God. Let's pray this Advent that we will receive the grace from God to produce the good fruit of repentance and bring peace. If we don't, there is a warning from John the Baptist in the Gospel when he describes Jesus cleansing humanity by separating good from evil. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.

St Paul writing to the Romans, reminds us, And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Fr. Christopher

MASS INTENTIONS**Dec 3rd, 2022**

6pm - Holy Souls

Dec 4th, 2022

9am— Pro Populo

11am— Sandra Lashmar
(Anniv)

Dec 8th, 2022

9.15am— St Edmund's School

8pm— St Edmund's Parish

For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

Confession on Saturday between
5.15-5.45 pm

or by appointment.

8th December 2022

**THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Holy day of obligation

Masses at:

9.15am & 8.00pm

**Readings for this & next
Sunday**

1st Reading— Isaiah 11; 1-10

Psalms 71; 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

response cf v 7

2nd Reading - Romans 15:4-9

Gospel - Luke 3; 4,6

1st Reading— Isaiah 35; 1-6, 10

Psalms 145; 6-10

response cf Isaiah 35:4

2nd Reading - James 5:7-10

Gospel - Matthew 11; 2-11

A rousing of the mind to the contemplation of God

Come now, insignificant man, fly for a moment from your affairs, escape for a little while from the tumult of your thoughts. Put aside now your weighty cares and leave your welcome toils. Abandon yourself for a little to God and rest for a little in him.

Enter into the inner chamber of your soul, shut out everything save God and what can be of help in your quest for him and having locked the door seek him out. Speak now, my whole heart, speak now to God: 'I seek your countenance, O Lord, your countenance I seek'

Come then, Lord my God, teach my heart where and how to seek you, where and how to find you.

Lord, if you are not present here, where, since you are absent, shall I look for you? On the other hand, if you are everywhere why then, since you are present, do I not see you? But surely you dwell in light inaccessible. And where in this inaccessible light, or how can I approach the inaccessible light? Or who shall lead me and take me into it that I may see you in it? Again, by what signs, under what aspect, shall I seek you? Never have I seen you, Lord my God, I do not know your face.

What shall he do, most high Lord, what shall this exile do, far away from you as he is? What shall your servants do, tormented by love of you and yet cast off far from your face? He yearns to see you and your countenance is too far away from him. He desires to come close to you, and your dwelling place is inaccessible; he longs to find you and does not know where you are; he is eager to seek you out and he does not know your countenance.

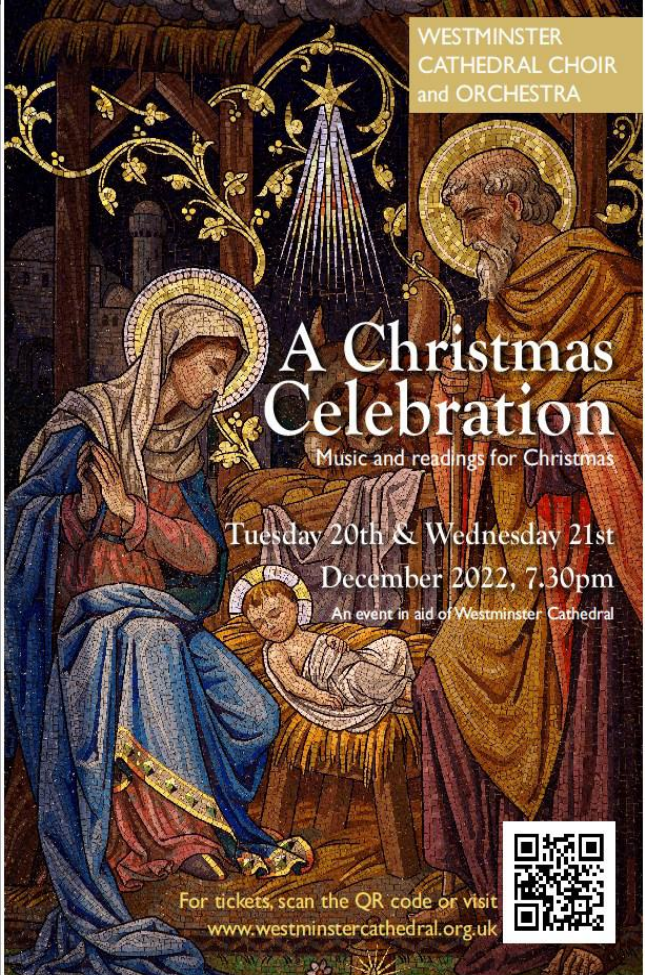
Lord, you are my God and my Lord, and never have I seen you. You have created me and re-created me and you have given me all the good things I possess, and still I do not know you. In fine, I was made in order to see you, and I have not yet accomplished what I was made for.

And you, O Lord, how long? How long, Lord, will you be unmindful of us? How long will you turn your countenance from us? When will you look upon us and hear us? When will you enlighten our eyes and show your countenance to us? When will you give yourself again to us?

Look upon us, Lord; hear us, enlighten us, show yourself to us. Give yourself to us that it may be well with us, for without you it goes so ill for us. Have pity upon our efforts and our strivings towards you, for we can avail nothing without you.

Teach me to seek you, and reveal yourself to me as I seek, because I can neither seek you if you do not teach me how, nor find you unless you reveal yourself. Let me seek you in desiring you; let me desire you in seeking you; let me find you in loving you; let me love in finding you.

St. Anselm



WESTMINSTER
CATHEDRAL CHOIR
and ORCHESTRA


A Christmas Celebration

Music and readings for Christmas

Tuesday 20th & Wednesday 21st
December 2022, 7.30pm

An event in aid of Westminster Cathedral

For tickets, scan the QR code or visit
www.westminstercathedral.org.uk




DIOCESE OF
**WESTMINSTER
YOUTH MINISTRY**

World Youth Day LISBON

Tuesday 25th July to Wednesday 9th August 2023

ARE YOU:

- Aged 18 - 35
- Looking to deepen your faith and relationship with Jesus
- Part of the Westminster Diocese
- Up for discovering cultures different to your own
- Ready to meet other Catholics from all around the world

WHAT WE ARE OFFERING YOU:
Two weeks in Fatima/Porto from Tuesday 25th July to Wednesday 9th August 2023 to celebrate World Youth Day with 2 million other young people! All transport, accommodation and food is included.

WHAT WE ASK OF YOU:
To pay a deposit of £100 upon booking, to cover the full cost of £1,700. To attend WYD ready to dive fully into the experience.



Mid Night Mass

We are looking for volunteers who could give out Mulled Wine and Mince pies after the Midnight Mass. If you can help then do give your details to the parish office.

First Holy Communion

Parents are reminded of their meeting on Monday 5th December at 7 pm here in the Church.

At the Meeting Parents can purchase the First Reconciliation Book and First Holy Communion Book at £20.00 each. Attending 9am mass is compulsory for children who are on the course—course finishes at 10.50am

Here are the dates for the 2023 course:

First Part:

1. January 8, 2023; 2. January 15; 3. January 22; 4. January 29; 5. February 5; 6. February 26.
7. March 5.

First Reconciliation: Saturday 11. March 2023

Second Part:

1. March 12; 2. March 19; 3. March 26; 4. April 2; 5. April 23; 6. May 7; 7. May 14.

First Holy Communion: Saturday 20. May 2023

RICHARD HOUSE

London's first children's hospice

Richard House is a children's hospice based in the heart of Newham that has been providing specialised free care services to seriously ill children and their families across East London communities for over 22 years. We are now supporting over 300 families and are asking you to consider supporting Richard House.

Many parents of seriously ill children are unable to work as their child due to complex medical conditions, requires 24/7 care, We offer free specialised care to these families and hope you can help us to continue to fulfil our mission. We get limited support from local authorities, with three quarters' of the money we need is coming from fundraising alone.

More information you can find on our website at www.richardhouse.org.uk

We hope you will consider supporting Richard House this Christmas season and beyond!

Your sincerely, *Charlie Grey,*



CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Sunday, 18th December 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 9am & 11am Sunday
Confession on Saturday - 5pm – 5.45 pm

Saturday, 24th December 2022 Christmas Eve

6.00pm Children's Mass for Christmas
11.30 pm Midnight Mass of Christmas with Carols before

Sunday, 25th December 2022 Christmas Day

11am Mass of Christmas Day

Monday, 26th December 2022 St Stephen

Mass at 11am

27th December 2022

No Mass

28th December 2022

No Mass

29th December 2022

11 am Mass with Altar Servers Renewal of Promises

Friday, 30th December 2022 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 11 am Mass

Saturday, 31st December 2022 6.00pm

Sunday, 1st January 2023 The Holy Mother of God
Mass at 9am & 11am

Monday, 2nd January 2023 Mass at 11am

3rd January 2023 No Mass

4th January 2023 No Mass

5th January 2023 No Mass

Friday, 6th January 2023 The Epiphany of the Lord

9.15am & 8pm Mass



Diocese of Westminster
Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund of Abingdon, Millwall
297 Westferry Road, Millwall. E14 3RS

Telephone: 020-7987-4114; Email: millwall@rcdow.org.uk; <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/millwall/>



Fr Christopher Silva

Parish Priest,

Mrs Katherine Woznicka

Parish Administrator

The office may be contacted by phone:

Monday to Friday 9am-2pm

Closed on Bank Holidays

Mrs Diane Winship

Safeguarding Representative

Please pray for the people and the land of Ukraine 'Almighty God, Through Jesus' Divine name and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we humbly ask for your mercy, to obtain peace in the land of Ukraine. May all the people of that Country remain safe from danger. Please do not let Chaos and war reign in the land of Ukraine but only peace that come from you'. Amen

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be

NEW DONATION BOXES OF ENVELOPES, For those registered in previous years, the envelopes are now ready for collection in our Sacristy. If you would like to sign up, and to increase your donation by £0.25p from every pound you donate, please, find a Gift Aid form on a table in church's lobby and leave it in the Sacristy or deliver to the office. Once you sign the declaration, I can prepare a box of envelopes for you. You can also donate by a standing order.

Do not hesitate to contact the office on Millwall@rcdow.org.uk you should have any question. Katherine

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

loose: £287.92 envelopes: £151.00 contactless collection last weekend: £166.00 total: **£604.92**

Standing orders in October; **£2255.00**

As a charity we rely on your donations only. As you have not been allowed to come to the church, we only were receiving donations set up as standing orders. We will be grateful for your financial support when you are back.

Your new sets of gift aided envelopes are available for collection before/after any mass or from the office.

Alternatively you could send your donation by bank. Parish account is on Parish Web.

Thank you for your Generosity

WRCDT Charity No: 233699

BAPTISMS can happen now on a Saturday morning.

Parents are asked to come to see Fr Christopher first. Next, they must attend a Baptism Formation Program (during pregnancy or after birth) – The **next baptismal courses will be on 26 January 2023 from 7pm to 9pm on Zoom**. Please, drop an email to the office millwall@rcdow.org.uk asap if you are interested, also book your appointment with Fr Chris. Later we will need your email address to invite you to join the session on Zoom. Before you do the course you need to come to the office to buy a baptism pack (£10).

FREE TEA AND COFFEE

There is free tea and coffee after 11 am Mass every Sunday. This marks a good time to meet your fellow parishioners. Come and join us.

Kingsley Nnaji

